

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 4048

USNATO FOR AMBASSADOR TOON AND SECRETARY'S PARTY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: CVIS, APER, ERD, EWWT, UR, US
SUBJECT: BILATERAL MARITIME RELATIONS

REFS: (A) MOSCOW 4008, (B) STATE 038520, (C) 76 STATE
308920, (D) 76 STATE 280031

1. AFTER AGREEMENT REACHED ON SUBSTANTIVE MARITIME ISSUES
AND JUST PRIOR TO SIGNING OF THREE MEMORANDA, PARA 1, REFTEL
A, IGOR AVERIN DURING SESSION ON MARCH 25 RAISED THREE
"ADMINISTRATIVE" PROBLEMS WHICH HE THOUGHT WOULD BE
AUTOMATICALLY RESOLVED NOW THAT THE MAIN PROBLEMS WERE
SETTLED. FIRST WAS THE USG REFUSAL TO ISSUE A VISA FOR
MR. GICHUNTS WHO IS TO WORK IN SOVFRACHT NY, REFTEL B.
SECOND WAS THE INTERVENTION BY THE DEPT WITH WASHINGTON
LANDLORD OPPOSING RENTAL OF PREMISES TO THE USSR MARITIME
ATTACHE OUTSIDE THE CONFINES OF THE MAIN EMBASSY BUILDING
(REFTEL C). THIRD WAS THE "THREATENING" NOTE OF THE STATE
DEPT ON THE POSSIBLE EXPULSION OF ONE MARITIME REP FROM
SOVFRACHT (REFTEL D). AVERIN ALLEGED THAT ALL THREE ISSUES
HAD BEEN RELATED BY USG TO THE THEN EXISTING PROBLEMS IN
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MARITIME RELATIONS.

2. USDEL CHAIRMAN POINTED OUT THESE MATTERS WERE THE
RESPONSIBILITY OF THE STATE DEPT. HE SAID THAT IF THESE
ACTIONS WERE TAKEN ON BASIS OF MARITIME RELATIONS THEN THE
STATUS OF THESE RELATIONS HAD OBVIOUSLY IMPROVED AS A
RESULT OF THE TALKS. IT WAS PROMISED THAT THE MATTERS WOULD

BE REFERRED BY OUR EMBASSY TO THE STATE DEPT FOR APPROPRIATE CONSIDERATION.

3. AVERIN THEN EXPRESSED SURPRISE THESE ISSUES COULD NOT BE RESOLVED AT ONCE BY USDEL AS HE THOUGHT THEY HAD ARISEN IN MARAD. HE THREATENED TO ASK THE MFA TO RAISE THEM AT THE TIME OF SECRETARY VANCE'S VISIT, AND SAID THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS WOULD HAVE TO TAKE RECIPROCAL MEASURES IF THESE PROBLEMS WERE NOT RESOLVED. SINCE THE ISSUES WERE NOT YET SETTLED, AVERIN SAID HE WOULD HAVE TO CALL MFA. UPON HIS RETURN, AVERIN STATED THAT MFA ALSO DID NOT WANT TO COMPLICATE THE SITUATION AND INTERFERE IN MARITIME AFFAIRS. MFA HOPED THE PROBLEMS WOULD BE RESOLVED IN A SHORT PERIOD, I.E., TWO TO THREE WEEKS, AND WITHOUT "DIPLOMATIC NOISE", THAT IS NEITHER DIPLOMATIC NOTES NOR LENGTHY NEGOTIATIONS WERE NECESSARY. HOWEVER, IF THE SITUATIONS TURN OUT TO BE "DIFFICULT", AVERIN SAID WE WILL USE "DIPLOMATIC FORMS OF RESOLUTION OF THE ISSUES."

4. USDEL CHAIRMAN SAID THAT REPLIES SHOULD NOT BE EXPECTED THROUGH MARITIME CHANNELS. HE ALSO SAID THAT IN HIS RE-COLLECTION THE QUESTION OF THE PREMISES FOR THE SOVIET MARITIME ATTACHE INVOLVED MATTERS OTHER THAN STATUS OF BILATERAL MARITIME RELATIONS.

5. MASLOV (SOVINFLLOT) THEN ADDED THAT THE US SIDE HAD INTRODUCED THE CONNECTION BETWEEN MARITIME AND ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES. THUS, HE SAID, WE ARE BOUND IN A CERTAIN WAY TO THAT CONNECTION: THE RESULTS JUST ACHIEVED REMAIN CONFIDENTIAL

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JOINED TO ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES.

6. THE THREE MEMORANDA WERE THEN SIGNED WITHOUT FURTHER DISCUSSION.

7. COMMENT: IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT THE FIRST AND THIRD ISSUED RAISED BY AVERIN WERE DIRECTLY LINKED TO THE STATUS OF OUR MARITIME RELATIONS. REFTEL C MAKES CLEAR, HOWEVER, THAT THE ISSUE OF RENTAL OF PREMISES FOR THE SOVIET MARITIME ATTACHE ALSO INVOLVED INTER ALIA RECIPROCITY AND SOVIET FAILURE TO GET PRIOR STATE DEPT PERMISSION. WE WOULD APPRECIATE BEING KEPT INFORMED OF RESOLUTION ON ALL THREE ISSUES.
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Message Attributes

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